



Welcome to the **CSC Annual Report for 2008**. At a time of serious economic difficulties and political challenges, it is good to reflect on the words of St Paul: "May you, in company with all God's people, be strong to grasp what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love" (Ephesians 3:18-19). 2008 was far from easy for Europe's political institutions. On 12 June, the voters of Ireland rejected the Lisbon Treaty on the reform of the EU. The year ended with many European nations being affected by the economic recession. Yet the European integration process continues; agreement was reached for Slovakia to adopt the Euro at the start of 2009.

CSC's work on addressing the challenge of climate change was highlighted by the Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network, held in Milan, Italy, on 24-28 September. This was also a major issue in discussions between religious leaders and the Presidents of the EU Institutions on 5 May in Brussels.

CSC celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2008 and produced commemorative postcards and bookmarks, which have been well received. In 2008 the integration between CEC and the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) was formally agreed.

Introduction

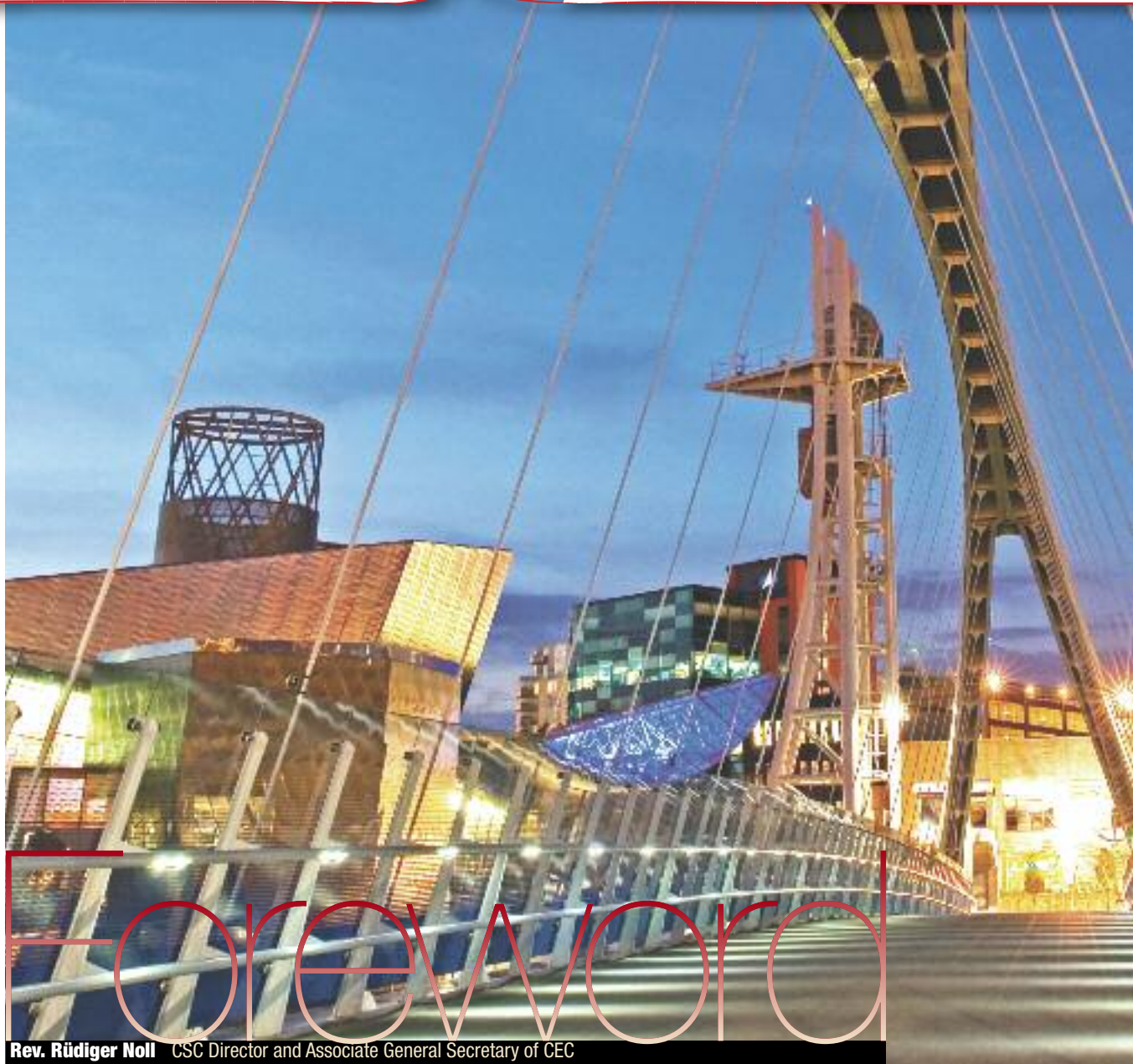
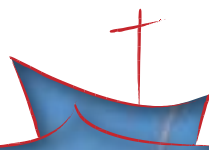
Ms Anthea Cox Co-moderator



Looking ahead, 2009 will be a year of anniversaries. CEC will celebrate its 50th anniversary. CSC will also celebrate 10 years as part of CEC; the former European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society was created 25 years ago; one of its founding streams, the Ecumenical Association, even dates back to 1959. 2009 will also mark the next CEC Assembly, to be held in Lyon, France, 15-21 July, with the theme "Called to one hope in Christ".

The above only gives the briefest introduction to the work of the CSC over the past year. Within this Annual Report there is a wealth of resources which we commit to you and which we hope provides interesting and stimulating reading.

Visit our website www.cec-kek.org



Rev. Rüdiger Noll CSC Director and Associate General Secretary of CEC

*The year 2009 will also
be a decisive year
for the European
integration process*

As in previous years, the Annual Report of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) provides an overview of the Commission's work in 2008 and, as usual, some areas of work are highlighted.

2008 was announced as the "European Year for Intercultural Dialogue" and the Church and Society Commission of CEC organised several events on the topic in the European Parlia-

ment and also contributed to the Council of Europe White Book on Intercultural Dialogue. The year also proved to be important in setting the scene and in negotiating targets for addressing climate change.

Towards the end of the year, however, the magnitude of the financial and economic crisis became ever more evident and dominated the public debate. The Central Committee of the Conference of European Churches, meeting in Cyprus in November 2008, adopted



a public statement on the financial and economic crisis, insisting on the ethical dimension. One article in this Annual Report looks at the social dimension of the crisis.

More than ever before, this Annual Report does not only look back. As indicated by its title, this Annual Report also looks forward towards the challenges ahead of us. The financial and economic crisis, as well as climate change and intercultural dialogue, will remain dominant issues in 2009.

The year 2009 will also be a decisive year for the European integration process, for the European Union and for the Conference of European Churches. European citizens are invited to elect a new European Parliament, which will subsequently elect a new European Commission. For the elections of the European Parliament, the ecumenical organisations based in Brussels have published a brochure, in which the issues highlighted in this Report also play an important role. (cf. www.ecumenicalvoices2009.eu). Furthermore, 2009 will also be a decisive year for the future of the Lisbon Treaty, which intends to pave the way for deepening and enlarging the European Union.

For the Conference of European Churches and its Church and Society Commission the year 2009 will be of special importance, because the CEC

Assembly in Lyon (July 2009) will adopt the work priorities for the years 2009 to 2015. The Assembly, under the title “Called to one hope in Christ”, will also review CEC as a fellowship of churches, in order to strengthen it as an effective instrument for the dialogue into the future. An important dimension for this dialogue remains the ever growing unity and fellowship among the churches across different confessions and contexts, but also the common witness of the churches in society.

As the European Union commits itself to an “open, transparent and regular dialogue” with the churches and the communities of faith and conviction (as it does with the organisations of civil society), the churches themselves are challenged to establish ever more effective mechanisms of dialogue among themselves and with the European institutions in order to make the common voice of the churches continuously heard in Europe.

At the Assembly in Lyon, CEC will celebrate its 50th anniversary – a good occasion for looking back, but mainly to look forward. The Assembly will set the future priorities and elect the new governing bodies. Following the Assembly, a new Church and Society Commission will be established. Therefore, we wish to thank at this stage all CEC member churches for their ongoing commitment to the work of CEC and its Church and Society Commission and we want to also express our gratitude to all those who have contributed to the work of the Church and Society Commission as members of the Commission, its Executive Committee and of its Working Groups, Task -Forces and Think-Tanks. It was the contributions of member churches and their representatives that on so many occasions made it possible for the common voice of the churches to be heard.



13th cec assembly

Called to One Hope in Christ
Lyon, France, 15-21 July 2009



The churches and the European Institutions

In 2009, the **Conference of European Churches (CEC)** celebrates its 50th anniversary. In the Preamble to the Constitution of CEC it is stated: "The Conference of European Churches is an ecumenical fellowship of churches in Europe", which "seeks to grow in the fellowship (koinonia) of faith, hope and love. Faithful to this Gospel, they also seek to make a common contribution to the mission of the Church to the safeguarding of life and the well-being of all humankind."

Since the very beginning of CEC, at its founding Assembly in Nyborg (Denmark) in 1959, growing in unity and growing in the churches' common witness in society have belonged together. Since the integration of CEC and the European Ecu-

menical Commission for Church and Society (EECCS) in 1999 (another anniversary to be celebrated), the common witness of the churches has not only been directed towards societies, but also towards the European Institutions and the political organisations with their specific agendas.

The European Institutions and the European political organisations (the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OSCE) have played and are still playing an important role in shaping Europe. Interestingly enough, they have borrowed language from the churches to describe their model of unity as a "unity in its diversity" (Preamble to the Draft Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe), a formulation which, however, was replaced in the Lisbon Treaty by "creating an ever closer union among the people of Europe". The European Institutions were established to foster reconciliation,

democracy, human rights, the rule of law, prosperity and the well-being of people. To that effect, the member states of the European Union have transferred a number of competences to the Union.

As the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, affirmed in his address to the European Ecumenical Assembly, the churches have played and are still playing an important role in the process of European integration: "The European Commission has always been attentive to the engagement of the Christian churches, and in particular to the Conference of European Churches, which since the beginning have accompanied and encouraged the big adventure of the European construction". Given the churches' specificity and their special contribution, the European Union has committed itself to an "open, transparent and regular dia-

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in Common Witness

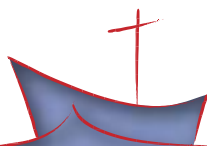
logue” with the churches and the organisations of faith and conviction. (cf. Art 17 of the Lisbon Treaty)

Art. 17 of the Lisbon Treaty challenges the European Institutions, in consultation with the churches, to find the appropriate “structures” for this dialogue to become ever more fruitful. A study commissioned by the Church and Society Commission evaluates the existing and well-established structures for this dialogue, including the annual “Summits” with the Presidents of the European Institutions, the regular thematic dialogue seminars, meetings with the Presidencies of the European Union on the day-to-day working level. But which additional elements for the dialogue need to be put in place? How can the existing structures be improved?

The commitment to an “open, transparent and regular dialogue”, however, also posed a challenge to the churches, especially to an ecumenical fellowship of churches like CEC. In order to make the churches’ voice heard on the European level, the Charta Oecumenica states: “We (the churches) commit ourselves to seek agreement with one another on the substance and goals of our social responsibility, and to represent in concert, as far as possible, the concerns and visions of the churches vis-à-vis the secular European institutions.” Which “structures” and which models of dialogue among the churches and within the ecumenical fellowship foster a common voice of the churches? In response to this question, it is evident that the unity of the churches and the ever growing fellowship of churches are an important prerequisite. The contributions of CEC and its Church and Society Commission to the European inte-

gration process always had the common faith of the churches as their basis. Obviously, the unity of the churches and their common witness vis-à-vis the European institutions are two sides of the same coin and have to go hand in hand. It is, therefore, important that the churches continue to reflect on models of their unity in order to strengthen their common witness. The conciliar process for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation provided one model, while some churches seem to favour a “churches together” model, in which the ecumenical fellowship of churches is rather asked to provide “only” a platform for exchange with different coalitions of some churches addressing the European Institutions.

The 50th anniversary of CEC and its 13th Assembly in Lyon (July 2009) will provide an important opportunity for further reflection on these issues in order for the spiritual heritage of Christianity to remain an empowering source of inspiration and enrichment for Europe. (Charta Oecumenica)



The Real Challenge

In 2008, the themes of environment and climate change resonated strongly in the European institutions as well as in society as a whole, including churches.

EU leaders adopted the energy/climate package at their summit in December. The package was described by the President of the European Commission already in its initial stage as the 'most far-reaching set of legislative proposals to be made by the European Commission for many years... [Europe] will show how a modern economy can be designed to meet the challenge [of climate change]. This is sustainable development in action.'

Nevertheless, the package was highly disputed at the meeting of the EU leaders as well as in the period immediately beforehand. The major reasons for that were the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis, as well as the question of burden sharing among the EU Member States. The final version maintains the original target: 20 percent reduction of carbon emissions, 20 percent improvement in energy efficiency and 20 percent share of renewable energies - all by 2020.

Although by this decision, the EU was able to make a major step forward in effectively responding to the challenge of climate change, it also caused widespread disillusionment among many environmentally concerned groups, who were expecting much more. Criticism is mostly oriented not at the final targets, but at how the targets are going to be achieved. Concerns about overuse of emissions trading mechanisms and the fact that the EU is not

going to reach its targets by domestic cuts have been central points of many critical comments including those coming from churches.

Delegates of the churches met in 2008 at the 7th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN). The Assembly was held in Truggio near Milan, Italy, under the theme, "The real challenge of climate change", building upon the role ECEN played in the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu.

In responding to the challenges of climate change, the Assembly concluded that it was impossible to explain climate change only by natural forces. Effective tackling of climate change can only be done by strong, coordinated and immediate action of individuals and society, including action of national governments and international institutions. The Assembly underlined that the time to act was now!

The concerns of the environmental movement provide many opportunities for a witness to our Christian faith. From



of Climate Change



a Christian perspective, acting against climate change makes sense as a sign – a sign that Christ, the Word of God, comes into the world to give life and not death, and our appointed task is to preach this good news to all creation.

The roots of human destruction of the environment are to be found not just in actions, but in our most deep-seated attitudes. It is not enough for humans to stay alive by consuming the world around them; they need a relationship

with the world that is not purely utilitarian and market-based. What is needed is a shift in dominant consumer societies to simpler lifestyles and to macro changes in politics and economics.

It is imperative that the EU commitments, no matter how appreciated they are, must not be achieved through off-setting emissions: significant cuts of greenhouse gas emissions have to be achieved through efforts here and now.

The challenge of climate change is an invitation to intensify action by many churches across the continent.





Europe's Social Reality:

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www.cec-kek.org/pdf/CSC_CCMResponseEuropesSocialReality.pdf

Feel-Good and Feel-Bad Factors. In the second half of the year 2008, EU's Public Opinion Analysis saw an outstanding shift in European public opinion from an economic 'feel-good factor', illustrating the extended impact of the highly positive short-term economic expectations, to an economic 'feel-bad factor' with the economic crisis being the main driver of Europeans' perceptions and opinions. The world faces a crisis that some describe as the worst of the industrial era, and Europeans are seriously worried about its consequences.

The situation was very much different at the beginning of 2008: At that time the "well-being" of Europe's citizens was in the focus of attention of the EU's report on "Europe's Social Reality and a New Social Vision for 21st Century Europe". CSC, together with partner organisations, had contributed to the public consultation which preceded the report, already pointing out that "risks and perceived risks greatly affect the well-being of the individual – risk of poverty, of losing peace and security, of losing jobs, of losing a secure status, of losing out on opportunities. Risk shapes individuals' – and families' – outlook on their future prospects... Therefore, being able to cope with risk is essential in today's society and, for those unable to cope, it is necessary for public authorities to ensure they are guaranteed sufficient support."



Well-being. From a Christian perspective, well-being does not only depend on economic factors. It necessarily includes other spiritual, relational, ethical dimensions. Looking back on 2008, advocating for a more holistic policy approach to Europe's economic and social policies was a common concern of CSC's manifold activities.

Three examples.

In February 2008, CSC together with CCME and the European Contact Group (ECG), held a Consultation on "Employment and the Churches in Europe", including a Dialogue Seminar with the European Commission. On the eve of the meeting of the Council of the European Union on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs, representatives and experts from the Churches in Europe discussed with the European institutions the modernisation of European employment policies. The Churches stressed that work is not only a production factor, but an important element of human dignity. To be able to work helps people to build up self-esteem, to be creative, to contribute to society and to participate in social life.

In autumn 2008, CSC together with COMECE engaged in the introduction of Sunday as a weekly day of rest in the revised Working Time Directive, asking the European institutions to respect the need of people to enjoy family life, meet friends and to establish and maintain social ties. "Only free time shared with others gives human beings in their relationships to others their full dignity."

At the same time, CSC engaged in the EU's consultation process on active

inclusion and in the preparation of the European Year 2010 for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The churches in Europe supported the European Commission's intention to come to a holistic active inclusion strategy - linking income support, active employment policies, education and access to quality services: "A just society must enable as many people as possible to recognise their individual talents, to develop them, and to use them productively for themselves and for others. A just society thus invests as much as possible in extending people's ability to organise their own lives and to enhance its dimensions of social concern and economic activity for all."



Social Peace in a Crisis Situation.

To overcome the current economic crisis, much will depend on the capacity of people to cope with risks and to co-operate in mutual support. For the churches, caring for those who are in need and advocating for those who have no voice is a constitutive part of their work for the well-being of people in Europe. Doing so means translating the biblical understanding of peace in society (shalom) into current social and economic policies.

www.ccc-kek.org/pdf/CSC_CCMEResponseactiveinclusion.pdf



In the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008), CSC together with COMECE and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), in association with Muslim partners, organised four “Islam, Christianity and Europe” seminars. The seminars, hosted by the European Parliament, discussed some of the burning issues of contemporary Europe in relation to religion. “Intercultural dialogue: response to which problems? Christian and Muslim perspectives” (17 April) stressed the importance of intercultural dialogue as a way to foster social cohesion in Europe. The seminar concluded that the main challenge for intercultural and inter-religious dialogues is to involve those who in the first place object to dialogue.

On 29 May, some hundred people from the European institutions and NGOs or representing religious communities and the academic world gathered for a dialogue on “the visibility of religion in the European public space”. The construction of mosques and the wearing of veils have sparked debate about freedom of religion, acceptance of change, respect for difference, relations between different religious communities and the relationship between the religious and the secular worlds.

The seminar of 3 July discussed the place of Muslims in Europe, where many people fear Islam, and that fear must be taken seriously and challenged. According to Metropolitan Emmanuel of France, who expressed the Christian view on the theme, for churches to come to terms with Islam requires a reflection on their mission as churches

“The peaceful coexistence of cultures and religions – both in the EU and its relations with peoples in all parts of the world – is of the utmost importance for our shared future”

Hans-Gert Pöttering,
President of the European
Parliament

and as missionary churches. The seminar made it clear that there are no religious reasons that would justify Christians and Muslims mistreating one another. It also highlighted that Islam and Christianity have much more in common than is often recognised, including common roots, values and concerns, like social justice.

The seminar of 11 September looked at “the external relations of the European Union with Muslim countries and international responsibility of religious communities”. The concept of reciprocity raised major concerns among Muslims, who felt it tended to be used by



the dominant side as an argument not to grant Muslims their full freedom of religion in Europe. The understanding of reciprocity by those Christian participants who defended the use of the notion was different. Reciprocity should not mean retaliation but be embedded in the ‘Silver Rule’ (“Do not do to others as you would not have them do to you”), as well as in the ‘Golden Rule’ (“Do unto others as you would wish them to do unto you”).

The seminars contributed to a response to a relativist secular liberalism that rejects the existence of a religious truth, and sought to advocate a plural-



“Engaging in constructive dialogue with people of different faiths and convictions is a key element of intercultural dialogue”

Jan Figel, Commissioner
for Education and Culture

ist liberalism which allows the public sharing of values, including religious ones. These values represent the foundation of a dialogue which is a source of hope for our multicultural societies.

The Council of Europe’s White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. 2008 was a very active year in the field of intercultural dialogue. The Council of Europe adopted and published the “White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue”, as a tool to manage Europe’s increasing cultural diversity. It highlights the importance of the religious dimension of the intercultural dialogue. Therefore, the

Council of Europe has established an annual meeting where it invites representatives from religious communities to discuss educational issues. This meeting will take place for the second time in spring 2009. CSC was asked by the Council of Europe to contribute to the organisation of the meeting and to approach the CEC member churches in terms of identifying the churches’ representatives. The CSC of CEC is also active through the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), one of the four pillars of the Council of Europe, in carrying out intercultural and inter-religious initiatives in society.



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Churches and Socially-Responsible Investment.

There has been a substantial increase in European churches' commitment to socially-responsible investment (SRI) in recent years. This influences the stewardship of church resources (such as pension funds) as well as the promotion of the idea in principle. Through SRI churches



can make a difference under market conditions towards just, sustainable and participatory societies.

A conference on churches and socially-responsible investment was held in Brussels on 6 and 7 May. It was jointly organised by the Church and Society

Commission of CEC, the Amersfoort-based organisation, Oikocredit, and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland.

Over 70 participants from churches and church-related agencies as well as expert organisations from 20 countries reflected on the churches' theological approaches, criteria for socially-responsible investment and best practices. The participants discussed with organisations that screen investment funds with regard to their social and environmental as well as their business performance. Important insights were also presented by existing church-related networks, which have long-standing experience in promoting and supporting SRI. Many participants felt that the conference had given them new insights and had motivated them to invest more in SRI. Further details and background papers are available on the CEC website.

Summarising the conference, Rev. Rüdiger Noll, Director of the Church and Society Commission, said: "As an ecumenical organisation of churches relating to the European institutions, we have stressed that the

process of globalisation as well as the paradigm of economic competition must be guided by social and environmental criteria. We are then often asked for an alternative. The conference in Brussels has clearly shown that churches committed to socially-responsible investment provide an effective alternative, on which we have to build much more in the future."

Modified Humans? Human enhancement refers to the gradual convergence of a range of technologies, some of them on a very small scale - so-called NBIC convergence of Nanotechnologies, Bio- and Information technologies, and the Cognitive sciences. Some claim that some techniques could eventually enable humans to live longer, to become stronger, smarter, happier and fairer. Much of the talk is about developments that are still technically in the far future, but since some things will be possible, there is a need to consider the ethical, social and spiritual dimensions of what raises most profound philosophical, theological and moral questions. Is it to be embraced with enthusiasm, or

seen as a threat to our humanity? Is it an alternative 'religion' which is simply misguided because it profoundly misunderstands our humanity? Will it provoke a deep division between haves and have-nots? Should we reject some possibilities while accepting others?

The CSC Working Group on Bioethics and Biotechnology is finalising a paper on these issues, drawing upon insights into human nature, into human use of science and technology and into the ultimate questions of human destiny and eternity.

CSC also started ethical reflections on non-biomedical issues linked to Science and Technology like Information and Communication Technology, and Nanotechnologies.

Growing cooperation on educational issues. In nearly all countries in Europe, teaching about religion is part of public education. In many of them, churches are deeply involved in the education system. Churches have an engagement with formal education and make a major contribution to non-formal education across Europe.

While the way in which reli-

Oikocredit

Oikocredit is an ethical investment cooperative society, which finances income-generating projects in developing countries benefiting disadvantaged and marginalised people. It encourages investors to invest their funds in a socially responsible manner.

Oikocredit was established to provide churches and church-related organisations with an investment instrument, to serve the interests of the poor. It has offices in 35 countries; the head office is in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. Oikocredit gives loans rather than donations.



It has a remarkable repayment rate. Less than 1% had been written off annually on the outstanding portfolio over the past three years. Oikocredit worked closely with CSC in co-hosting a conference in Brussels on

Churches and Socially Responsible Investment in May 2008. The roots of Oikocredit lie in the social gospel of the World Council of Churches. The General Assembly of the WCC, meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, in

1968, considered the issue, which eventually led to the creation of the Oikocredit Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society in 1975. Website: www.oikocredit.org

religious education is organised in public schools and the role of the churches within it is contested, with the growing importance of intercultural dialogue, religion is increasingly back in the public sphere. The European institutions have a supportive competence in the field of education. Education and lifelong learning are recognised as important means for promoting shared values, intercultural dialogue and active European citizenship. In 2008 the Council of Europe organised a meeting with religious communities about religion in education that contributes to democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural dialogue. The exchange will be continued in 2009. In addition the European Commission organised a dialogue seminar with CEC and COMECE on the Green Paper on Migration and Mobility.

Thus the importance of the churches engaging with the European institutions about education is growing. CSC is therefore continuing to strengthen the collaboration with the Intereuropean Commission on Church and School (ICCS) and the International Association

for Christian Education (IV) and other partner organisations to develop this commitment.

CSC starts Gender Training.

Gender issues are of growing importance within CSC. How have these issues been approached in 2008? The Commission is committed to gender equality, which means the equal visibility, empowerment and participation of both sexes in all the spheres of public and private life, and supports those actions of the European institutions which lead to gender equality in society. At the ecumenical level, CSC is a member of the Gender Advisory Group of CEC which is making preparations for a future gender desk. During 2008 the CSC team has become more gender balanced. The staff is indeed aware of the challenges this may bring and is organising a gender training course as a teambuilding measure. The first such training course will take place in spring 2009.



Human Rights Campaign in 2008.

The Conference of European Churches has a long-standing record of being involved in promoting human rights. As Christians, we believe that God's creation of human beings in His own image and likeness constitutes the dignity of each individual.

The Church and Society Commission of the Conference

of European Churches joined the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December 2008 (Human Rights Day).

To mark this anniversary CSC produced a specific postcard and a bookmark, which contains a prayer following the articles of the UDHR.

The Church and Society Commission invited the churches to observe this anniversary by using these cards and distributing them in their constituency, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration by reaffirming our ongoing commitment to human rights. On this occasion, churches were invited to pray for those who need human rights' protection.

So far, the Human Rights Prayer has been translated into 9 languages. If it is not yet translated into your language and you are willing to do so, please contact the Human Rights Secretary on eki@cec-kek.be. For more information about our human rights work, please visit: www.cec-kek.org/content/human_rights.shtm.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), a new CSC European partner

The Church and Society Commission welcomed the inauguration of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (on 1 March 2007), which was formerly called the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). On 20 May 2008, the Working Group on Human Rights and Religious Freedom of the Church and

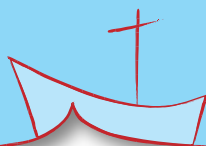


Society Commission of CEC met with Mr. John Kellock, FRA's Head of Unit for Communication and External Relations. The international group of experts discussed a common agenda for

future cooperation. CSC welcomed FRA's Multi-Annual Framework (2007-2012). In autumn 2008, CSC became a member of the EU Fundamental Rights Platform and made a

significant contribution to the FRA 2009 Work Programme and to the follow-up process of FRA's Annual Report 2008. Further cooperation will be continued through the active work of the Platform. Mr. Morten Kjaerum from Denmark has been appointed as the new Director of the FRA. He took up his post on 1 June 2008. His term of office is

five years, which may be extended once for a period of not more than three years. The Church and Society Commission of CEC is looking forward to a close cooperation with FRA and will contribute to FRA's work with its own expertise. The CSC correspondence with FRA can be found on: www.cec-kek.org/content/human_rights.shtml



January

Press release: EU Commissioner Orban meets young Romanian volunteers from CEC



February

CSC-CCME-ED Response to Europe's Social Reality Paper

CSC-CCME Response to consultation on active inclusion

Press release: European Churches meet the Slovenian EU Presidency



Press release: Churches encourage the EU towards a much broader approach to employment policies - Dialogue with EU Commissioners Jan Figel and Vladimir Spidla

March

CSC Briefing Paper on climate change
CSC Report on the Treaty of Lisbon

April

CSC Briefing Paper on Intercultural Dialogue within the European Union

Press release: CSC of CEC committed to promote mutual respect and tolerance in Europe

Press release: CSC of CEC discusses intercultural dialogue and future work at its Plenary meeting in Prague

Press release: CSC of CEC welcomes the creation of the EU's Peace-Building Partnership

Event Report on "Intercultural dialogue: response to which problems? Christian and Muslim perspectives"

May

Press release: Socially-responsible investment: churches bridging the gap between mere market forces and social justice

Press release: Churches to contribute to shaping a Europe of values: CEC Presidium met in Brussels

Event Report on "Visibility of religion in the European public space: the question of worship places and religious symbols in clothing"



June

Press release: CSC of CEC comments on EU Draft Paper on organ donation and transplantation

July

Event Report on "Christian Europe' and Islam in Europe"

CSC Guide on EU Presidencies

September

Event Report on "The external relations of the European Union with Muslim countries and international responsibility of religious communities"

Press release: Churches can contribute to reducing the impact of climate change by proposing new lifestyles

Final Statement of ECEN Assembly: "The real challenge of climate change – an appeal to Churches"



November

CSC Briefing Paper on the religious dimension of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

Press release: Religion in the public sphere – legal challenges and trends



Press release: Church representatives meet the French EU Presidency



December

CSC Briefing Paper on the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue

Press release: European Churches celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Press release: Churches and the European Commission discuss challenges facing the educational systems in an intercultural context

January

Brainstorming meeting on Globalisation (Bern)

February

Meeting with Police chaplains from Germany, France and Switzerland at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg)

Visit of the Church of Scotland
Moderator, Rt Revd Sheilagh Kesting (Brussels)

Meeting with Slovenian Presidency of the EU (Ljubljana)

Seminar on employment and the churches in Europe, including dialogue seminar with the EU (Brussels)

March

Meeting with the Council of Europe Ambassadors from Nordic-Baltic countries (Strasbourg)

April

Visiting group of pastors from the Church of Westphalia (Brussels)



Meeting of Religious Communities with the Council of Europe (Strasbourg)
CSC Plenary Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic

Churches and the EU Presidencies (Prague)

Meeting with Human Rights Experts in the Council of Europe (Strasbourg)

1st seminar on Islam, Christianity and Europe (Brussels)

Visit of the Communications Department of the Church of Sweden (Brussels)



May

Meeting with the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso (Brussels)

Churches along the Rhine Conference on Islam and Gender Issues (Strasbourg)

Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (Brussels)

Meeting with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna)

Meeting with Churches from future EU Presidency countries (Höör, Sweden)

Brainstorming Meeting on Family Policies (Brussels)



2nd seminar on Islam, Christianity and Europe (Brussels)

June

Visit of a delegation from the Diocese of Oxford (Brussels)

Visit of UK Churches Legislation Advisory Service (Brussels)

Meeting with All-Africa Conference of Churches, incl. meeting with French Counsellor for Africa (Paris)

Visit of Europe Secretaries of German Landeskirchen (Brussels)

Visit of Romanian church delegation (Brussels)

July

Panel discussion on Agriculture (Brussels)

3rd seminar on Islam, Christianity and Europe (Brussels)

Meeting with Jean-Pierre Jouyet of the French Government (Paris)

August

CEC-CSC Visit to Armenia and Georgia

September

Bioethics brainstorming meeting (Strasbourg)

4th seminar on Islam, Christianity and Europe (Brussels)

7th ECEN Assembly (Milan)

Visiting Group from Pfalz (Strasbourg)

October

Visiting group (Seurakuntaopisto) from Finland (Brussels)

Visiting group from the Stockholm diocese (Brussels)

Visiting group from Evangelische Akademie im Rheinland on peace & security issues (Brussels)

Annual Meeting of Church and Society Secretaries (Leuven, Belgium)

November

Visiting group from the Inter-religious Council of Macedonia (Brussels)

Visit of the Church of Sweden communication officers (Brussels)

Consultation on Religion in the Public Sphere (Brussels)

Meeting with the French Presidency (Paris)

CSC fact-finding mission to Montenegro (Podgorica)



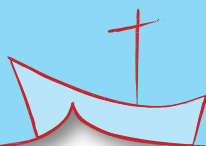
December

Meeting with French Presidency (Brussels)

Visit of the Church of Sweden and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland leadership (Brussels)

Dialogue Seminar with the EU on quality education in an intercultural environment (Brussels)





The Commission

Rev. Alfredo Abad Heras
Spanish Protestant Church

Rev. Dr. Zoltan Bona
Reformed Church in Hungary

Kirchenrat Joachim Brandt
Strasbourg Beirat

Ms Anthea Cox*
(CSC co-moderator since April)

British Methodist Church

Rev. OKR'in Dine Fecht-Stuckenschmidt
Evangelical Church in Germany.

Prof. Karsten Fledelius
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark

Rev. Serge Fornerod
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Rev. Prof. Alexandru Gabriel Gherasim
Romanian Orthodox Church

Rev. Gunnar Grönblom*
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland

Rev. OKR'in Antje Heider-Rottwilm*
(co-moderator until April)
Evangelical Church in Germany

Ms Anita Henslin*
Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia

Archimandrite Arsenios Kardamakis
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

M. Mag. Katerina Karkala-Zorba*
Church of Greece

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Körtner
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria

Archimandrite Hovakim Vardges Manukyan
Armenian Apostolic Church

Rev. Dr. Lennart Molin
Mission Covenant Church of Sweden/Christian Council of Sweden

Rev. Evert Overeem
Protestant Church in the Netherlands

Ms Lidia Palac
Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

Rev. Tony Peck
European Baptist Federation

Ms Françoise Prager-Bouyala
French Protestant Federation

Dr. Charles Reed
Church of England

Fr. George (Ryabykh)*
(co-moderator)
Russian Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr. David Sinclair
(until April)
Church of Scotland

Rev. Hana Tonzarova
(*since April)
Czechoslovak Hussite Church

LKR Hermann Wischmann
Evangelical Church in Germany

* Members of the Executive Committee

Strasbourg Beirat

President Claudia Bandixen
Reformed Church of Aargau

Kirchenrat Joachim Brandt
Evangelical Church in the Rhineland

President Jean-François Collange
Church of the Augsburg Confession in Alsace and Lorraine

Decan Rudolf Ehrmantraut
Church of Palatinate

Mr Serge Fornerod
Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches

Mr Jean-Jacques Fritz
European Parliament

Mr Mario Heinrich
Council of Europe

Dr Jean-Gustave Hentz
Church of the Augsburg Confession in Alsace and Lorraine

Rev. KR'in Susanne Labsch
Church of Baden

Mr Halvor Lervik
Council of Europe

Rev. Enno Strobel
(moderator)
Reformed Church of Alsace-Lorraine

Staff

Rev. Rüdiger Noll
Director, Brussels

Ms Véronique Dessart
Support Staff, Brussels

Ms Elina Eloranta
Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Véronique Engels
Support Staff, Brussels

Rev. Richard Fischer
Executive Secretary, Strasbourg

OKR'in Katrin Hatzinger
(as of May) Associate Staff, EKD Office Brussels



Commission of CEC

Rev. Dr. Dieter Heidtmann

Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Elizabeta Kitanovic

Executive Secretary, Brussels

Ms Lois Hough-Stewart

Support Staff, Brussels

Ms Marie-Madeleine Linck

Support Staff, Strasbourg

Ms Carla Maurer

Executive Secretary,
Strasbourg

Rev. John Murray

Associate Staff, Anglican
Chaplaincy,
Strasbourg, France

Rev. Dr. Peter Pavlovic

Study Secretary, Brussels

Rev. Matthew Ross

Executive Secretary, Brussels

Vikar Martin Schuster

(until June), Intern, Brussels

Ms Charlotte Vander Borgh

Accountant, Brussels

OKR'in Sabine von Zanthier

(until May)

Associate Staff, EKD Office
Brussels

Canon Dr. Gary Wilton

Associate Staff, Church of
England, Brussels

Two associate staff members joined the CSC staff in 2008. Canon Dr. Gary Wilton, the Church of England Representative to the EU and Canon of the Pro-Cathedral of Holy Trinity, Brussels, is associate staff of CEC in Brussels working with CSC mainly on issues related to climate change. He works in co-operation with Rev. Dr. Peter Pavlovic, the Secretary of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN), as well as with other member churches of CEC. Prior to his appointment Gary Wilton was Head of Post-Graduate Studies in Theology & Religious Studies at the Church of England University of York St John. He was previously Associate Principal at Church Army's College in Sheffield and in parish ministry in Bath & Wells Diocese. Gary's first degree was in Economics and Politics.

Since May 2008, **Katrin Hatzinger** has been the new Director of the Brussels office of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). Katrin is associate staff of CEC and Secretary of the CSC Working Group on EU legislation. Moreover she is a regular participant in the meetings of the

CSC Working Group on Bioethics. She studied at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bielefeld and specialised in European law. She passed her second state exam at the District Court of Duisburg, Germany. Before joining the EKD Brussels office as legal counsellor in 2003, she worked in the administration of the employment centre in Duisburg and as a freelance radio journalist for the WDR in Cologne.

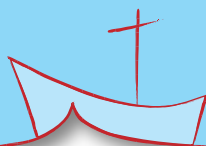
Welcome to the new Co-moderator of CSC Anthea Cox. Anthea Cox is a Methodist Local Preacher and provides consultancy and advice regarding churches, human rights and social justice. She is currently researching the relationship between the churches in Europe and international human rights law. Until recently Anthea was a senior leader for the Social Justice policies of the Methodist Church in Britain. She is a former Labour City Councillor and founder of a leading social enterprise, Goldhay Arts.

Farewell to OKR'in Antje Heider-Rottwilm. Rev. Antje Heider-Rottwilm (Evangelical Church in Germany, EKD) was elected as the

CSC co-moderator at the Plenary meeting in Järvenpää in May 1999. She took up a new position developing a new ecumenical centre in the HafenCity Hamburg. During the Plenary meeting in Prague all participants, members of the Commission and staff, warmly thanked Rev. Heider-Rottwilm for her work and dedication. She responded saying, "I have enormously enjoyed my eleven years working with CEC on behalf of the EKD. The chance to contribute towards building reconciliation amongst the peoples of Europe has been a great privilege and challenge. The work towards European integration – and particularly the importance of Europe's churches strengthening dialogue with the European political institutions – remains a crucial agenda item of the churches."

Welcome to Hana Tonzarova. Rev. OKR'in Antje Heider-Rottwilm's departure left a vacancy in the CSC Executive Committee. We are delighted that CSC member Rev. Hana Tonzarova (of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church) has agreed to return to serve as a member.





Working Groups and working group members



Working Group on Bioethics & Biotechnology

- Rev. Kirsti Aalto**
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Finland
- Prof. Svend Andersen**
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Denmark
- Prof. Stavros Baloyannis**
Church of Greece
- Dr. Donald Bruce**
Church of Scotland
(until July 2007- co-opted since
October 2007)
- Dr. Andrea Dörries**
Evangelical Church in
Germany
- Rev. Anton Ilin**
Russian Orthodox Church
- Dr. Mireille Jemelin**
Federation of Swiss Protestant
Churches
- Prof. Karsten Lehmkuhler**
Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Alsace and
Lorraine
- Prof. Dr. Elena
Masarovicova**
Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in the
Slovak Republic
- Prof. Anna Rollier**
Federation of Protestant
Churches in Italy
- Prof. Egbert Schrotten**
(moderator)
Council of Churches in the
Netherlands
- Dr. Stefan-Ioan Stratul**
Romanian Orthodox Church

Working Group on EU legislation

- Dr. Lisbet Christoffersen**
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Denmark
- Dr. Altana Filos**
Greek Evangelical Church
- Rev. Gunnar Grönbloom**
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Finland
- Prof. Dr Peter Kresak**
Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in the
Slovak Republic
- Prof. Gianni Long**
Federation of Protestant
Churches in Italy
- Ms Maria Lundqvist-Norling**
Church of Sweden
- Prof. David McClean**
(moderator)
Church of England
- Dr. Joanna Mizgala**
Evangelical-Reformed Church
in Poland
- Prof. Dr. Gerhard Robbers**
Evangelical Church in
Germany
- Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Stotz**
Evangelical Church in
Germany



Working Group on Human Rights and Religious Freedom

- Rev. Peter Ciaccio**
World Student Christian
Federation
- Mr Kirill Frolov**
Russian Orthodox Church
- Rev. Prof. Alexandru
Gabriel Gherasim**
Romanian Orthodox Church
- Mr Ebbe Holm**
(co-moderator)
Baptist Union of Denmark
- Prof. George Krippas**
Church of Greece
- Dr. Peter Krömer**
Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
Austria
- Ms Anne Lagerstedt**
Ecumenical Forum of
European Christian Women
- Rev. Anthony Peck**
European Baptist Federation
- Ms Ingvill Thorson Plesner**
(co-moderator)
Church of Norway
- Dr. Daniel Spratek**
Silesian Evangelical Church of
the Augsburg Confession in the
Czech Republic
- Dr. Anne-Ruth Wellert**
Evangelical Church in
Germany



Working Group on European Integration

Rev. Dr. Zoltan Bona
Reformed Church in Hungary

Rev. Dr. Elfriede Dörr
Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
Romania

Dr. David Gill
Evangelical Church in
Germany

Mr William Jourdan
Ecumenical Youth Council in
Europe

Mr Vakhtang Kipshidze
Russian Orthodox Church

Ms Zuzana Dvorakova
(until September 2008)
Ecumenical Council of
Churches in the Czech
Republic

Ms Lena Kumlin LL.M
(*co-moderator*)
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Finland

**Archimandrite Ignatios
Sotiriadis**
Church of Greece

Rev. Peter Southcombe
United Reformed Church in
the United Kingdom

Rev. Dr. George Tsetsis
(*co-moderator*)
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Working Group on Peace, Security and Reconciliation

Rev. Christine Busch
Evangelical Church in
Germany

Ms Paula Devejian
Armenian Apostolic Church

Dr. Anette Månsson
Church of Sweden

Rev. Miklos Menessy
Ecumenical Association of
Churches in Romania

Rev. David Mumford
Church and Peace

Mr Georgy Roshchin
Russian Orthodox Church

Rev. Dr. Donald Watts
(*moderator*)
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Dr. Kostas Zorbas
Church of Greece



CSC Working Group on Social Issues*

Ms Rita Bruvers
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Latvia

**Rev OKR'in Cornelia
Coenen-Marx**
Evangelical Church in
Germany

Ms Alison Jackson
British Methodist Church
(since 2008)

Mag. Martin Schenk
Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
Austria

Prof. Christina Vayas
Church of Greece

* Eurodiaconia suspended its participation
in the Joint Social Policy Working Group in
January 2008.

Members of the CSC/CEC Task Force on Globalisation 2008

Dr. Milos Calda
Evangelical Church of Czech
Brethren

Sr. Fotinia
Russian Orthodox Church

Ms. Anita Henslin
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Latvia

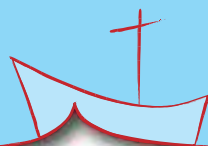
Mr. Jaap Houtman
United Protestant Church
in Belgium

Rev. Dr. Tamas Kodacsy
Reformed Church in Hungary

Dr. Ulrich Moeller
(*moderator*)
Evangelical Church
in Germany

Rev. Raag Rolfsen
Church of Norway

Mr. Rob van Drimmelen
Aprodev



Financially, 2008 was a more challenging year for the Church and Society Commission than recent years. Nevertheless, we are most grateful to everyone who has supported the work of the CSC and gratefully record our thanks.

By agreement of the Central Committee of CEC the general CSC budget for 2008 increased by 16% from 2007. The actual figures increased by 15%. On the level of Programmatic Activities (budgeted project by project) the higher number of meetings led to a considerable increase of expenditure and income. The following can be noted:

- Christians and Muslims in Europe (meeting held in Mechelen, October 2008, and follow-up in 2009) will partly be funded by EACEA.

- Our campaign on the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Conference on Churches and Socially Responsible Investment co-organised with Oikocredit and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- Conference for church lawyers on Religion in the Public Sphere
- ECEN Assembly held in Italy with the active support of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI).

On the income side, support from Member Churches for seconded staff has been maintained faithfully and we wish to thank those churches who continue to make these appointments possible. Al-

so, the Programmatic activities have been greatly supported by several Member Churches and Agencies, over and above their general contribution to CEC. Correspondingly, some contributions from our Members have declined due to the current economic situation and this has affected our overall income. Accordingly, CSC and CEC have had to draw on their own resources and reserves to cover the financial deficit.

As announced in our previous Annual Report the exact grant received from the EACEA (Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture - Citizenship) for the Europe Day within the Third European Ecumenical Assembly (6 September 2007) amounted to 48.151,07 €.



Europe Day co-financed by the European Union within the "Europe for Citizens" programme 2007-2013

EXPENSES 2008 RELATED TO WORK AREAS

1%	Gender Equality
2%	Agriculture
2%	European integration
2%	EU Legislation
2%	Globalisation
3%	Corporate Social Resp
3%	Peace and reconciliation
3%	Europe of Regions
4%	Education
4%	Bioethics
4%	Social Issues
5%	Human Rights
7%	Interreligious Dialogue
8%	Association of owners
8%	Environment
10%	Communication
---	Management / Member churches relations

TOTAL EXPENSES

1.277.210,00



INCOME 2008

1%	Other income	15.754,20
6%	Own funds	68.075,50
8%	Association owners	101.867,20
12%	CEC general budget	153.700,00
16%	Programmatic activities income	203.150,54
25%	Seconded staff	322.185,00
32%	Contribution Members and Associated members	412.477,56
TOTAL INCOME		1.277.210,00



Plenary 2008



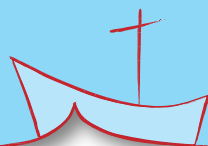
The 2008 Plenary of the Church and Society Commission met in Prague from 10 to 13 April 2008 at the invitation of the European Baptist Federation, the Ecumenical Council in the Czech Republic and the seven CEC member churches in the Czech Republic.

The 24 members of the Commission and representatives of partner organisations, met at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague and reviewed the work done by the Commission in the previous year.

“Churches in Europe and Intercultural dialogue” was the main theme of the plenary. A second main topic on the agenda of 2008 was “Religion in the Public Sphere”. “The Czech Republic was a very interesting context in which to address both of CSC’s main themes for the year 2008,” said Rev. Rüdiger Noll, Director of the Church and Society Commission and Associate General Secretary of CEC. “The Czech Republic is often referred to as one of the most secular countries in Europe and recent legislation there seems to make it more difficult for churches to assume their public role and to offer their social services as churches”, he added. “We are grateful to the churches in the country, to the Ecumenical Council in the Czech Republic and the European Baptist Federation for their invitation.”

In addressing the main themes, the plenary drew on the work of the Church and Society Commission in recent years, particularly its contribution to the debates on the role of religion and on intercultural dialogue in the framework of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Issues related to anti-discrimination and human rights, peace and security, social issues, climate change and European integration were addressed. The Commission adopted its new work programme for 2008/09 which highlights topics such as developments toward the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and preparations for the 2009 CEC Assembly in Lyon, France (15-21 July 2009).



Albania

Orthodox Autocephalous
Church of Albania

Armenia

Armenian Apostolic Church

Austria

Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
Austria
Evangelical Church of the
Helvetic Confession in
Austria
Evangelical-Methodist Church
in Austria
Old-Catholic Church in Austria

Belgium

United Protestant Church in
Belgium

Bulgaria

Baptist Union of Bulgaria
Evangelical-Methodist Church
in Bulgaria
Pentecostal Assemblies of
Bulgaria

Croatia

Baptist Union of Croatia
Church of God in Croatia
Evangelical Church in the
Republic of Croatia
Evangelical Pentecostal Church
in Croatia
Reformed Christian Church in
Croatia

Cyprus

Church of Cyprus

Czech Republic

Czechoslovak Hussite Church
Evangelical Church of Czech
Brethren
Evangelical-Methodist Church
in the Czech Republic
Moravian Church in the Czech
Republic
Old-Catholic Church in the
Czech Republic
Orthodox Church in the Czech
Lands and Slovak
Republic
Silesian Evangelical Church of
the Augsburg Confession
in the Czech Republic

Denmark

Baptist Union of Denmark
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Denmark

Estonia

Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran
Church
Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran
Church Abroad
Estonian Methodist Church
Orthodox Church of Estonia
Estonian Apostolic Orthodox
Church (Ecumenical
Patriarchate)

Finland

Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Finland
Orthodox Church in Finland

France

Church of the Augsburg
Confession in Alsace and
Lorraine
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of France
Federation of Evangelical-
Baptist Churches of France
Malagasy Protestant Church in
France
Reformed Church of Alsace-
Lorraine
Reformed Church in France

Georgia

Union of Evangelical Christian-
Baptists of Georgia

Germany

Catholic Diocese of the Old-
Catholics in Germany
Evangelical Church in Germany
(EKD)
Union of Evangelical Free
Churches in Germany
(Baptists)
United Methodist Church in
Germany

Great Britain

Baptist Union of Great Britain
The Methodist Church of Great
Britain
Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Congregational Federation of
the United Kingdom
Council of African and
Caribbean Churches
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Salvation Army - UK
Territory/Ireland
Scottish Episcopal Church
Shiloh United Church of Christ
Apostolic Worldwide
United Reformed Church in the
United Kingdom

Greece

Greek Evangelical Church
Church of Greece

Hungary

Baptist Union of Hungary
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Hungary
Evangelical-Methodist Church
in Hungary
Reformed Church in Hungary

Iceland

Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Iceland

Ireland

Church of Ireland
Methodist Church in Ireland
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Italy

Baptist Union of Italy
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
in Italy
Evangelical-Methodist Church
in Italy
Waldensian Church

Latvia

Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Latvia
Latvian Evangelical-Lutheran
Church Abroad

Liechtenstein

Evangelical Church in the
Principality of
Liechtenstein



Lithuania

Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Lithuania
Lithuanian Evangelical-
Lutheran Church in
Germany

Luxembourg

Alliance of Protestant Churches
of Luxembourg

Netherlands

Mennonite Church in the
Netherlands
Old-Catholic Church of the
Netherlands
Protestant Church in the
Netherlands
Remonstrant Brotherhood

Norway

Church of Norway

Poland

Baptist Union of Poland
Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
Poland
Evangelical-Reformed Church
in Poland
Old-Catholic Mariavite Church
in Poland
Polish Autocephalous
Orthodox Church
Polish Catholic Church (Old-
Catholic)
United Methodist Church in
Poland



Left Hotel Nyborg Strand as it looked in 1959, to the right Hotel Nyborg Strand today.

Portugal

Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic
Evangelical Church
Methodist Church of Portugal
Presbyterian Church in
Portugal

Romania

Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
Romania
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
in Romania
Reformed Church in Romania
(Kiralyhagomelléki
District)
Reformed Church in Romania
(Transylvanian District)
Romanian Orthodox Church

Russia

Euro-Asiatic Federation of the
Unions of Evangelical
Christian-Baptists
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
of Ingria in Russia
Russian Orthodox Church
(suspended their
participation since
November 2008)

Serbia/Montenegro

Evangelical-Methodist Church
in Macedonia
Evangelical-Methodist Church
in Serbia
Reformed Christian Church in
Serbia/Montenegro
Serbian Orthodox Church
Slovak Evangelical Church of
the Augsburg Confession
in Serbia

Slovak Republic

Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
the Slovak Republic
Evangelical Free Church in the
Slovak Republic
Orthodox Church in the Czech
Lands and Slovak
Republic
Reformed Christian Church in
the Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Evangelical Church of the
Augsburg Confession in
the Republic of Slovenia

Spain

Spanish Evangelical Church
Spanish Reformed Episcopal
Church

Sweden

Baptist Union of Sweden
Church of Sweden
Mission Covenant Church of
Sweden
United Methodist Church of
Sweden Annual
Conference

Switzerland

Federation of Swiss Protestant
Churches
Old-Catholic Church of
Switzerland
United Methodist Church in
Switzerland

Ukraine

Trans-Carpathian Reformed
Church

International Areas

Ecumenical Patriarchate of
Constantinople
European Continental Province
of the Moravian Church
Evangelical-Lutheran Church
in Russia and Other States
Salvation Army International -
Headquarters Europe
Zone
United Methodist Church -
Nordic and Baltic Area
United Methodist Church -
Central and Southern
Europe Area

CEC ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

Action of Churches Together in
Scotland
Christian Council of Norway
Christian Council of Sweden
Church and Peace
Church Mission Society
Churches Commission for
Migrants in Europe
Churches Together in Britain
and Ireland
Churches Together in England
Churches Together in Wales
Conference of European
Pastors' Association
Conference of European
University Chaplains
Council of Churches in the
Netherlands
Ecumenical Association of
Academies and Laity
Centres in Europe

Ecumenical Association of
Churches in
Romania/AIDROM
Ecumenical Association for
Adult Education in Europe
Ecumenical Council of
Churches in Hungary
Ecumenical Council of
Churches in the Slovak
Republic
Finnish Ecumenical Council
Ecumenical Forum of
European Christian
Women
Ecumenical Institute for the
Nordic Region
Ecumenical Youth Council in
Europe
Estonian Council of Churches
Eurodiaconia / European
Federation for Diaconia
European Alliance of YMCAs
European Baptist Federation
European Contact Group
European Forum of Christian
Men
European YWCAs
Federation of Evangelical
Lutheran Churches of
Switzerland and the
Principality of
Liechtenstein
Federation of Protestant
Churches in Italy
French Protestant Federation
Gustav Adolf Foundation
Intereuropean Commission on
Church and School
International Association for
Christian Education
International Prison Chaplains'
Association/Europe
Irish Council of Churches
Portuguese Council of
Christian Churches
Spanish Committee on
Cooperation between the
Churches
Union of Evangelical Free
Churches in Germany
World Student Christian
Federation (Europe)



Who we are

The Church and Society Commission is one of the commissions of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). The CSC links CEC's 125 member churches from all over Europe and its associated organisations with the European Union institutions, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, NATO and the UN (on European matters). It engages its member churches and associated organisations in studies and projects relevant to church and society and thus supports and strengthens the common witness of European churches vis-à-vis the European Institutions and in the respective European societies.

The CSC was established in 1999 as a result of an integration process between CEC and the European Ecumenical Commission for Church and Society (EECCS), both of which had a long-standing record of working in the field of church and society.

CEC was founded in 1959 as a bridge-building organisation between the churches in Eastern and Western Europe.

1984 can be regarded as the founding date for EECCS, which was established as a representation of churches vis-à-vis the European institutions.

Following this integration process,

the CSC received a special status within CEC. Its work programme as well as its working mechanisms and methods are determined by a 24-person Commission in agreement with CEC's Central Committee.

The Commission Plenary meets once a year, and elects the CSC Executive

Committee. In consultation with the General Secretary of CEC it can make public statements on issues within its remit. The CSC has secretariats in Brussels and Strasbourg and maintains strong links with the CEC headquarters in Geneva. The Directorate of the CSC is based in Brussels.

Mandate and Methods

Our mandate

- Study and examination of Church and Society questions in a socio-ethical perspective such as EECCS and CEC have undertaken up to now (for example: peace, justice and the integrity of creation, reconciliation, churches and governments);
- Monitor the European institutions: European Union, Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, in relation to themes such as the European integration process, democratisation, establishment of the rule of law, human rights and minority questions, European security, economic and social questions, the environment;
- Deal with the specific responsibility of the churches in the member states of the European Union for the internal policies of the EU.

How we work

- The Church and Society Commission (CSC) monitors developments in the European Institutions and makes inputs to the institutions on behalf of its member churches
- CSC acts through its working groups which study church and society issues and engages member churches in consultations and projects on specific topics
- CSC closely cooperates with other church-related organizations and NGOs such as CCME, Eurodiaconia, APRODEV and COMECE
- CSC bases its actions on its work programme through flexible and ad hoc working mechanisms and methods. More information on <http://www.cec-kek.org>
- In the implementation of its agenda, regular communication between CSC and its member churches and the Institutions are of crucial importance

Long term working groups have been established for the following priority areas of the 2004-2009 work programme:

- European Integration
- EU Legislation
- Peace, Security and Reconciliation
- Bioethics and Biotechnology
- Human rights and Religious Freedom
- Social Issues (a joint Working Group with Eurodiaconia)

The CSC also addresses the following themes with appropriate working mechanisms:

- Globalisation
- Sustainable Development
- Environmental Issues
- Agriculture and Rural Life
- Gender Equality
- Education
- Inter-religious Dialogue

Acronyms

CCME	Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe
CEC	Conference of European Churches
COMECE	Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community
EATF	European Air Transport Fleet
ECG	European Contact Group & NGO - Non Governmental Organisation.
ED	Eurodiaconia
ECEN	European Christian Environmental Network
EEAS	European External Action Service

EUMC	European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia
FRA	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
ICCS	Intereuropean Commission on Church and School
ICD	Intercultural Dialogue
IV	International Association for Christian Education
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
SRI	Socially Responsible Investment
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights